



Piedmont
COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE MESSSENGER

BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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December 25, 2011

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NEXT DEADLINE:
January 13, 2012

Send submissions to
messenger@piedmontchurch.org

VISIT PCC ONLINE:
www.piedmontchurch.org

Piedmont Community Church
400 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-547-5700

Share the Joy of Christmas

**Christmas Eve
Worship Services**

All are Welcome

5pm Family Service
9pm Candlelight Service ~ Full Choir
11pm Candlelight Service ~ Full Choir

Dinner for the Homeless at The Berkeley Men's Shelter

Please join us on Christmas Eve at 6pm to serve Christmas Dinner to the men at the Berkeley Men's Shelter. If you haven't signed up and are interested in serving Christmas Dinner, please contact Barbara Crawford at 658-5898 or barbaracrawford@comcast.net. Please join us for this meaningful way to bring the spirit of Christmas to those in need.

Pledges and Payment

Please pay any outstanding 2011 balance on your pledge by December 31st. If you have not pledged for 2012, please do so! December has historically been our church's "make or break" month when it comes to receiving pledges for the next church year. That's because it is the deadline for us to know with certainty what funding we can rely on to support all our programs over the next 12 months. We currently need another \$200,000 to make our budget and



maintain current programs and services that our members and communities value. **If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please do by December 31!** We are counting on you to help us meet our modest 2012 budget.



Summer in Winter

For All This Night, Steve Main's second Christmas cantata, was given its world premiere at PCC Sunday night, December 11. For those lucky enough to be there, it was the first gift of Christmas. Backed by an orchestra 34 members strong, the Chancel Choir and soloists delivered an original new work of majesty, mystery, and elegance.

Working with a full palette of orchestral colors, Steve conjured up everything from warlike north winds to gentle zephyrs scattering flowers, creating perfect settings for texts drawn largely from medieval times. "Summer in winter, day in night, welcome wonders in one sight. Heaven in earth and God in man: all eternity, shut in a span"—so went the words to one movement, a marvelous evocation of the miracle of Christ, set to a lilting waltz. Beginning with a lush, orchestral setting of the Appalachian Carol (I wonder as I wander), the piece built steadily through five choral movements, ending triumphantly with a call to joy—by then a joy shared by all attending.



SERMONS & FLOWERS

Sunday, December 25th

Rev. Don Ashburn

"Heard It Before"

Luke 2:1-20



Sunday, January 1st

Rev. Scott Kail

"What are God's
Thoughts This Year?"

If you would like to donate
flowers for the sanctuary,
please contact Sara Hirsch
sara1.hirsch1@gmail.com
510 -853-8789



MILESTONES

Jean Drewes

mother of Bonnie Stehr,
died on March 5, 2011



*Our prayers are with her
family and friends as we thank
God for her life.*

Widows

Friendship Circle

Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, January 17th,
10am in the Guild Parlor.

This group meets the
3rd Tuesday of every
month. Please contact
Parish Visitor, Florence
Slater, 654-5934 or Rev.
Ashburn, 547-5700, if
you want to attend.

Adult Education
Beginning January 22

In a powerful new book called, When Helping Hurts, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert write that even the most well-intentioned efforts to help the poor can do more harm than good. Starting with faulty assumptions about poverty, efforts at alleviating it often end by causing more suffering – both for those in need as well as those trying to help. So, starting next month, Rev. Don Ashburn will lead a 3-week class based on the book. We will meet on January 22, 29 and February 5 in the Kettlewell Room at 11:30 am. The class will appeal to anyone who has been involved in mission or charitable giving – with positive and/or negative experiences – as well as anyone who has a heart for those in need. You need not read the book to participate. For more information, or to order a copy of the book (by January 15th for \$10) you can contact Rev. Ashburn at: don@piedmontchurch.org or 547-5700.

Adult Fellowship in January!



Save the Date: Friday, January 13, 2012! For a change of pace, we're heading out to an evening of fun and camaraderie at Playland Not-at-the-Beach in El Cerrito. Fun activities include playing on over 30 pinball machines (all set on free play), winning prizes at classic arcade games, maybe some team competition, etc. Your \$15 check to PCC will reserve your admission and a pizza dinner. Just bring your preferred beverage. Questions to Linda McClain 220-3111 or lindaemc@ix.netcom.com.

Loaves & Fishes
Thanks You!

Loaves and Fishes wants to thank all those volunteers, many of whom stepped up for the first time, who helped make the reception following the Christmas Concert a huge success. We could not have accomplished the reception without you, and you should be proud of the number of firsts you all achieved.

First, we believe the numbers prepared for and served were nearly four hundred. This exceeds by at least one hundred, any indoor food services provided on premises by PCC volunteers.

Second, the food provided at the reception was primarily acquired from local small businesses where possible -- locavores take notice!

In addition, a number of the food items were produced on site by Ann Lister and her helpers despite a last minute failure of our church stove.

Distribution of surplus foods were made to City Team Ministries, the PCC Livewire Christmas Party, PCC Adult Fellowship and the Alternative Gift Market.

We hope all of you wonderful volunteers enjoyed yourselves, and hope to see you back in the church kitchen and in Guild Hall in 2012. Our thanks to all of you and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

~ Loaves & Fishes





Notes From The Choir

By A. Chorister

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR ALL

On Christmas Eve at 9:00 and 11:00 PM, the choir will present a second look at Steve's original setting of The Holly and the Ivy, that bouncy, yet ever-mysterious British carol, with its naturist overtones. His arrangement, which debuted last year, features everything from sturdy harmony singing, to lovely solos by the section leaders, to a part he calls "the creepy bit," and which he claims to have "ripped off from Star Trek," or whatever it was he said in rehearsal this week. As the saying goes, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts (all grist for the mill, even science fiction), and it's certainly true of this fine work. We'll also chime in with selected carol settings from David Willcocks, the excellent British arranger. Also on Christmas Eve, you can expect some fine singing from the Youth Choir at 5:00. We heard them sallying forth on The Sussex Carol just the other night. It sounded great.

Christmas Day and beyond. Look for fine work from our wonderful soloists on this day and New Year's. As for us humble choristers: we shall return the following week. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a happy New Year!

Christmas Pageant - Thank You Everyone!

It takes many hands and lots of good humor to organize and present the annual Children's Christmas Pageant. We couldn't have done it without the the many good people who lended their hands! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Celebrating and Giving Thanks During Advent



A cozy fire in the fireplace, festive table decorations, candles glowing and the scent of rosemary filled the air at this year's Advent Dinner. Many thanks to the PCC Deacons (Paul Gray, Marella Guigou, Don Campbell, Mary Fielder, Kristine Haataja, Frank Judd, Maureen Recker, Rebecca Litteneker, Jennifer Nixon, Steven Thorne and Lynn Nelson) who worked together to orchestrate this special evening for over 120 church members and friends.

Thank you Tom and Ann Lister for heading up the wonderful volunteer group "Loaves and Fishes" who planned and prepared our delicious meal. We are blessed to have such a wonderfully dedicated and talented cooking crew.

PCC's "Thanks" also go out to many other helpful hands including Mary Judd, Katie Asher, Randy Litteneker, Patti Gray, Marilyn Hodgson, and those of you who just chipped in without being asked.

Final appreciation goes to the attending choir members (Jan Crago, Bill Molmen, Kristine Haataja, Jennifer Nixon and Geoff Colton) who were good sports when they were asked to lead an "unfinished" rendition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas".

Here's to a PCC Christmas season of good friends and joyful anticipation.



Altar Guild Thanks Bakers, Makers and Buyers

Thank you bakers and candy makers, and thank you buyers! The Altar Guild Homemade Holiday Sale made \$580! This will support more fresh flowers, refreshed decorations and clean altar cloths!!



Merry Christmas

As I frantically zoom from place to place, getting presents, making candy, going to different events, planning dinner for Christmas

Eve, I wonder....is it all worth it???? Then I take a moment to think...YES IT IS!!! This is the time for remembering times past and enjoying family moments. It is a time for contacting friends and loved ones you haven't seen for a while. Of all the times of the year, Christmas is a time for love. It is a time for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The night of the Christmas Pageant I sat in the front row and I watched as these beautiful children told the Christmas story. I felt so proud of them and I felt the joy they had in telling the story. It was a time to relax and enjoy.

I have a request of you. During this year's pageant, I asked those of you who had participated in past pageants to stand up. People of all ages stood up. I was amazed. My request – I would love to hear (via letter or email so I get the facts right) about the Piedmont Community Church pageant you participated in. If you have any photos, that would be great also. I want to gather all this information together so we know what was done in the past, and we can continue to add to it in the future.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas! May the spirit of the season be with you and those around you.

Merry Christmas from around the world:

Felices Pascuas – Argentina

Chestita Koleda – Bulgaria

Kung His Hsin Nien or *Bing Chu Shen Tan* – China

Zalig Kerstfeest – Netherlands

Wesolych Swiat – Poland

S Rosbestvom Khristovym – Russia

Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun – Turkey

Nadolig Llawn - Wales

Leslie

Leslie Quantz

Director of Children's Ministries

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If you are receiving the Messenger but no longer wish to receive it, please take a moment to let our office manager, Jean Leaby, know by calling 510-547-5700 or e-mailing jean@piedmontchurch.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 24th - 6:00pm Feeding the Homeless
Berkeley Men's Shelter

Dec. 24th - 5, 9 & 11pm Worship Services

Dec. 25th - 10:30am Worship Service *Only*

Jan. 1, 2012 - 10:30am Worship Service *Only*

Jan. 13 - 6:30pm Adult Fellowship

Jan. 27-30 - Rock/Livewire Ski Retreat

Jan. 22, 29 & Feb. 5 - Adult Education

SAVE THE DATE!

January 29th ~ 5:00pm

Imani/Piedmont Choir Concert

Reception to Follow

**Communion will be served on
January 8th, not the 1st.**